S-1

FBI Never Investigated Shaw--Clark

Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark says he was in error in stating an FBI investigation cleared Clay Shaw of involvement in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Actually, the Justice Department said yesterday in Washington, the FBI had not even investigated Shaw—a retired businessman under indictment in New Orleans on a charge of conspiring to assassinate Kennedy.

A department spokesman issued a statment he said aimed at clearing up an erroneous statement last March 2 by Clark at an impromptu news conference.

AT THAT TIME, Clark was quoted as saying Shaw had been cleared by the FBI of involvement in the slaying during the bureau's investigation in the New Orleans area in November and December, 1963. The Justice Department statement said "the attorney general has since determined that this was erroneous. Nothing arose indicating need to investigate Mr. Shaw."

The department said the clarification was requested by Edward F. Wegmann, Shaw's lawyer. Shaw, 54, a decorated World War II Army major, currently is free on $10,000 bail. No date for his trial has been set.

Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison has said Shaw, the late David W. Ferrie and Lee Harvey Oswald conspired to assassinate Kennedy.

THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT said the FBI probe did cover allegations by Dean A. Andrews Jr. which included a reference to Clay Bertrand—the name Garrison maintains Shaw also used.

Andews, a New Orleans attorney who once handled minor legal matters for Oswald, since has been indicted for perjury. The department said, "Clay Bertrand was not identified as a real person. No evidence was found that Clay Shaw was ever called Clay Bertrand."

The Warren Commission, which invetigated the assassination, said Oswald acted alone. The department said yesterday it "is convinced that Lee Harvey Oswald alone assassinated President Kennedy."